

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 17-19 and 27-29 into independent form. Applicants also amend claims 21, 23, 24, and 26 to maintain antecedent basis. Claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24, and 26-29 are therefore pending in this application.

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner rejected claims 9, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; rejected claims 1, 2, 4-16, 20-26, and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,805 to Koike et al. ("*Koike*"); rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koike* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,542,006 to Shustorovich et al. ("*Shustorovich*"); and rejected claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koike* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,093,869 to Alves et al. ("*Alves*").

In the Office Action, the Examiner also objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show "the concept of '**complementary recognizers**' or '**complementary recognition algorithm**'" (emphasis in original, Office Action at p. 6).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 9, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and the Examiner's objection to the drawings as improper, for at least the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration mailed September 2, 2005. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 9, 20, and 25, rendering the rejection of claims 9, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) moot.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Applicants also respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration mailed September 2, 2005. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the claims subject to these rejections have been cancelled, rendering these rejections moot.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-19 and 27-29 contain allowable subject matter and "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim" (Office Action at p. 13). By this Amendment, Applicants have rewritten claims 17-19 and 27-29 to include all of the elements of the rejected base claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24, and 26-29 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24, and 26-29 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were earlier claimed in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

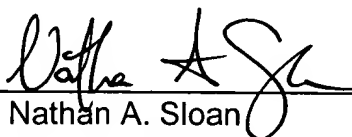
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 2, 2005

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